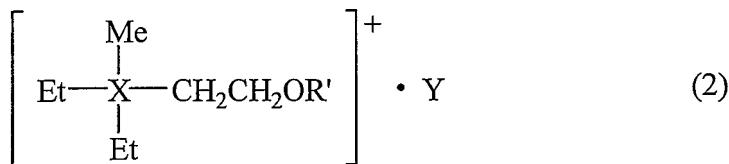


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte characterized by containing:
an ionic liquid having general formula (2) below and a melting point not higher than 50°C



wherein R' is methyl or ethyl,

X is a nitrogen atom or a phosphorus atom,

Y is a monovalent anion,

Me stands for methyl and Et stands for ethyl;

a compound which reductively decomposes at a more noble potential than the ionic liquid; and

a lithium salt.

2. (Original) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that the compound reductively decomposes at a more noble potential than the ionic liquid when a working electrode used with the electrolyte is made of a carbonaceous material or metallic lithium.

3. (Original) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 or 2 which is characterized in that the content of said compound within the electrolyte is from 0.1 to 60 wt%.

4. (Original) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 3 which is characterized in that the content of said compound is 0.1 to 30 wt%.

5. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that the compound is one or more selected from among ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, vinylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate and diethyl carbonate.

6. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that the ionic liquid has a melting point not higher than 25°C.

7. (Currently amended) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that X is a ~~nitrogen atom, nitrogen atom and~~ R' is methyl, ~~and the letter n is 2.~~

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that Y is BF_4^- , PF_6^- , $(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2\text{N}^+$, CF_3SO_3^- or CF_3CO_2^- .

10. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte of claim 1 which is characterized in that the lithium salt is LiBF_4 , LiPF_6 , $\text{Li}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2\text{N}$, LiCF_3SO_3 or LiCF_3CO_2 .

11. (Previously presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary cell having a positive electrode which contains a lithium-containing double oxide, a negative electrode which contains a carbonaceous material capable of inserting and extracting lithium ions or contains metallic lithium, a separator between the positive and negative electrodes, and a nonaqueous electrolyte; which secondary cell is characterized in that the nonaqueous electrolyte is a nonaqueous electrolyte according claim 1.

12-13. (Canceled)